

Please amend the Abstract of the specification in the manner indicated:

A method and apparatus for identifying uncorrectable Reed-Solomon codewords in the presence of Reed-Solomon codewords which may have errors and erasures and otherwise be correctable. ~~In a Reed-Solomon decoder handling both errors and erasures, an uncorrectable codeword is identified when any one or more of six conditions (a) to (f) is satisfied: (a) no solution to key equation  $\sigma(x)T(x) \equiv (x) \bmod x^{2T}$ ; b)  $\deg \sigma(x) \neq n_{\text{errors}}$ ; (c) error and erasure locations coincide; (d)  $\deg \omega(x) \geq n_{\text{errors}} + n_{\text{erasures}}$ ; (e)  $n_{\text{erasures}} + 2 * n_{\text{errors}} > 2T$ ; and (f) an error location has a zero correction magnitude; where  $n_{\text{errors}}$  and  $n_{\text{erasures}}$  represent, respectively, a number of errors with reference to an error locator polynomial  $\sigma(x)$  and a number of erasures with reference to an erasure locator polynomial  $A(x)$ ,  $2T$  is the strength of a Reed-Solomon code,  $\omega(x)$  is an errata evaluator polynomial, and  $T(x)$  is a modified syndrome polynomial. A detector circuit 300 comprises a logic unit 350 which tests for the conditions (a) to (g), and an indicator unit 360 which provides a corresponding output.~~